

# CATHOLIC

Catholic isn't just a name of a Church in Christendom. The word Catholic is a descriptive term for the oldest Church in history. "Catholic" applies to all God's faithful all the way back to the first humans on earth, Adam and Eve, before they disobeyed God and sinned.

The word "catholic" is derived from the Greek term "katholikos" meaning "universal". Universal comes from the Latin word, "universum", meaning 'to be all one in all'. The original Hebrew word was (κατά- completely) and (נָוֹלֹאָה-whole) meaning completely whole or "universal". One reference to the term is at Judges 20:14 "All...of Israel".

Church is derived from The Greek word (εκκλησία – ekklesia or ecclesia; meaning "called out" or "gathered together") The Church is also referred to by the apostles as "the house of God." It has always been understood that the "one universal family" would be governed by one head, a father, within the universal community of the Catholic Church.

St Jerome under the direction of Pope St Damasus I in Rome in 383 A.D. completed the compilation of the 73 books and epistles of the original canon scriptures written in their original languages into Latin. Among them was the book of Genesis written by Moses in about the year 1300 BC. It is believed that Noah carried written accounts of the history of the ten generations before him, dating back to Adam. Noah, in turn, handed down these records and verbal accounts to his sons Moses wrote about. Among these records was the genealogy of the ancestors of Abraham dating back to Adam. Adam and his wife Eve had a son, Cain, who was a farmer. Their second son, Abel became a shepherd. The brothers made sacrifices to God, each of his own produce. This was the first inkling of the sacramental Mass instituted. God demonstrated that He required "sacraments" (liturgical Mass) to be handled exactly as He saw fit with no deviation. Because Abel's sacrifice was perfect in God's eyes, [Hebrew word for 'perfect' is (שְׁלֵמָה), meaning "whole" or "complete"] his sacrament was pleasing and acceptable. On the other hand, God wasn't pleased with Cain's sacrifice because it was not his best, it was not whole and complete. This foreshadowed how Therefore, Abel was the first to offer God a Holy and perfect (complete) sacrifice to God and proved himself acceptable to God who then became part of God's "universal" family on earth. Abel became the first on earth to entire the house of God, the Holy "catholic church".

We can then trace the lineage of Abel down to Jesus.

Abram (הַמֹּן –Hamon meaning "exalted father") was the 10<sup>th</sup> generation from Noah.

God changed Abram's name to *Abraham*. (meaning "father of many")

Abraham - God promised him a covenant to bless ALL nations.

Abraham's first-born son by Hagar, Sarai's maid servant, was Ismael (ישׁמְעָאל – meaning "outcast") who was the forefather of the Ishmaelites, Islam or Muslims.

Isaac (Yishāq קִרְצָאֵךְ- "he laughs") was the second son of Abraham and Sarai.

Jacob (יעקב; from word 'heel' meaning, 'supplant' or 'follow') son of Isaac.

God changed Jacob's name to Israel (ישראל) - "one who struggled with God")

Israel who had 12 sons, the foundation of the Israelites.

Judah ( יהודה, Yəhūdā – 'praise') Jacob's 4<sup>th</sup> son, ruler of the kingdom of Judah; Jews.

Jesus (Hebrew: Yeshua; ישׁׁעָא; meaning "to deliver; to rescue.") born Dec. 25, 1BC.

Mother – Blessed Virgin Mary Father – Holy Spirit Foster father - Joseph

Jesus was a Judean.

The faithful descendants of Judah (the Jews) met in small gathering places called synagogues (בֵּית כְּנָסֶת – meaning assembly, flock or house of prayer). They read from the Mosaic Law and prophets and followed along with the prayers along of the priests who in turn following the liturgy that Moses received from God. (Ex. 25-27) This liturgy included sacrifices of the best each Israelite family could afford. There were five types of sacrificial offerings; burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings and guilt offerings at the temple. But all offerings had to be perfect; i.e., complete and whole.

Throughout the Old Testament, a new covenant was promised that would be established when the Messiah arrived. The new covenant would do away with the old covenant along with the old liturgy and temporary offerings at the temple. (Jeremiah 31:31) St Peter announced to the Church in the first century that those under the new covenant would be called “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession”. (1 Peter 2:9)

St John pointed out that this new holy nation would be in line to inherit a heavenly kingdom. (John 18:36)

Jesus said, in His sermon on the mount in the “Lord’s prayer” to pray that “God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

Thus, the “faithful” since Abel, who were “called out” by God, were all part of the universal “Catholic” Church founded by Jesus “the Word” in the Garden of Eden. The same Word foretold of a seed (Genesis 3:15) who would bless ALL the nations of the earth. Jesus identified Himself as “the Word of God” and the fulfillment of the promised seed of the Abrahamic Covenant. (Galatians 3:16) (Genesis 12:1-3)

Jesus also promised that His Church, the Catholic Church, would include people from of ALL nations of the earth and that His kingdom, His Church would never be interrupted or be taken over by His enemies until the end of time. (Matthew 28:20)

Therefore, by Jesus own words, made it clear, there is no salvation outside His only Catholic Church on earth; *Extra ecclesiam nulla salus*. To deny this would be tantamount to calling Jesus a liar.